



By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin, 10th Mnt.Div. Public Affairs

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, talk through a translator to a group of Iraqis. Translators are a convenient way for Soldiers to know the needs of the Iraqi community but have been threatened by anti-Iraqi forces. Despite the risk, translators continue to assist Multi-National Forces and some say they are doing it to make a better place for themselves and their families. Many say they are proud they could play a part of the progress that has been made in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq.

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Cavalry General Encouraged

Weapons Turn-In Only a Start

By Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer
122nd MPAD

CAMP AL TAHREER, Baghdad - Midway through a five-day period of weapons turn-ins at designated sites in eastern Baghdad, one senior leader with the 1st Cavalry Division called the initiative a step in the right direction, but that he'd like to see more.

Speaking with Iraqi journalists, assistant division commander Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond said he's not seeing the kinds of weapons he was hoping to see, specifically crew-served weapons and explosive ordnance.

"The only people that are turning in weapons so

far are the people of Sadr City, not the militia," Hammond said. Still, the general was pleased with the progress toward disarming the troubled eastern Baghdad slum area.

"I am very encouraged; I think we are going in the right direction," Hammond said. "But I will only know that we are going in the right direction in the next few days when I see thousands of RPGs (rocket propelled grenade launchers), thousands of bombs, and bomb-making materials being turned in. Then I will know we are going in the right direction."

Hammond met with six Iraqi journalists at the division's headquarters in Baghdad, discussing secu-

rity concerns and rebuilding efforts in the Al Thawra District during a press luncheon.

As the meeting progressed, the conversation turned to the reconstruction efforts still being hampered by violence in eastern Baghdad.

"I am prepared to restart sewer, water and electrical projects," Hammond said. "I have the contractors ready to start work on Saturday. I am ready to put 15,000 people in Sadr City to work."

"The militia cannot put 15,000 people to work; cannot build roads or sewers, bring in fresh water nor provide electricity," Hammond said. "The militia cannot educate your

children. In fact, there is nothing I can think of that is good that the militia can do."

Hammond feels disarming the militia in eastern Baghdad is only a start.

"They must do the honorable thing, and that is disband," he said.

The 1st Cavalry Division is responsible for maintaining safety and security in the Iraqi capital. The general said that the division remains focused on improving the infrastructure of the city.

"The [Iraqi] people need to get their lives back in order," Hammond said. "And they need improvements to their living conditions. That is what this initiative is all about."

Fearless Men Forming the Future

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mnt. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad, Iraq -- All he wants to do after a long day's work is sit down for dinner with his wife and children. His route takes a detour, however, when men in masks with machine guns force him to stop. They threaten that if he goes to work tomorrow, he and everyone he loves will be killed.

Will he clock in the next day as if nothing happened? Will his life ever be the same?

To the average American, such a scenario would be inconceivable. But it is a common occurrence for Iraqi translators, who risk their lives to work with multinational forces.

"Mahir," whose name has been changed for security reasons, is no stranger to the dangers a translator faces. Mahir has moved four times due to death threats to him and his family since he started working for multinational forces. On one occasion, masked insurgents armed with AK-47s cornered and threatened to kill him.

"They searched my

house, searched my computer," he said. "After this, I bought a different home."

The threats persisted and eventually Mahir had to leave his family and move to an Army base. They gave him a pistol for protection.

Mahir is not the only translator who has been directly threatened by anti-Iraqi forces.

"Zaki," whose name has also been changed, is an Iraqi doctor who lived through Saddam Hussein's entire reign of tyranny. Armed insurgents have also chased him on his way home. He managed to escape, but they made gestures implying they will get him later. He continues to work with multinational forces and hopes to become an American citizen.

Why do translators take such risks? Money is a factor for many, Mahir said. But many also work to improve their country, said Master Sgt. Philip Lueders, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

"A lot of these guys are trying to make a difference as well as a living," he said. "They are civilians living in great danger. We need to appreciate that."

"I want to compensate for the lost days of my life," Zaki said. "U.S. forces are worthy to serve because they liberated us from Saddam."

Many translators like Zaki lived most of their lives under Hussein's rule. "Nabil," an Iraqi refugee who taught English in Lebanon, an illegal act

under Hussein's regime, sacrificed safety and security and returned to Iraq to help his country. After his family was detained trying to meet him in Lebanon, Nabil fled to Portugal out of fear of Hussein's vengeance.

"If I continued to stay, they may send me back to Iraq in a coffin," Nabil said.

After the coalition forces invaded Iraq, Nabil returned to help in the rebuilding. It was his first time in his homeland since 1994.

"I was really anxious to do something for Iraq," he said. "This is one way that I can do it. This is our freedom; we have to fight for it."

Iraqi translators play an intricate role in helping Soldiers communicate with the Iraqi populace, Lueders said.

"One interpreter said that when he coaches other interpreters, he tells them they are masters of the show. That sounds grandiose, but the information they provide helps us prevent casualties."

Nabil said working with multinational forces is a

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Almost Too Late to Vote

Armed Forces Absentee Voting Week ends Friday. Soldiers who are registered to vote should send their state absentee ballot, or federal write-in ballot by Oct. 15 to ensure it reaches local election officials in time.

If you have requested an absentee ballot and have not received one, or have not requested a ballot but are a registered voter, you can still vote using a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for General Elections form.

To vote using a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for General Elections form, go to your local post office, or contact your S-1 officer for your write-in ballot, fill it out, and mail it on or before Oct. 15 to ensure a successful vote.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How long do we have here?
kam mAHnaa min al-waqt huna

Friday

High: 96
Low: 72



Saturday

High: 98
Low: 74



Sunday

High: 98
Low: 72



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

UT No Longer Largest Campus

AUSTIN (Austin American-Statesman) - The University of Texas at Austin is not the largest university campus in the nation this semester for the first time since 1997, based on preliminary enrollment data from several schools. Ohio State University in Columbus leads with 50,995 students. The University of Minnesota at Twin Cities has 50,954. The preliminary figure for Texas is 50,403. A task force advised the university to lower the number of students to 48,000 within five years, which could place it as low as fifth-largest in the nation.

Gross, Gross, Gross Pig Guts Stop Traffic

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Reuters) - Emergency service workers had their stomachs turned when they cleaned up a smelly mess of spilled pig innards that blocked a busy Arkansas intersection for several hours on Tuesday. Police said a truck spilled about 1,000 pounds (450 kg) of hog intestines fresh from a packing plant. The mess in the state capital, Little Rock, left several cleanup workers queasy. "It was horrible. Oh, it was bad," said Sgt. Terry Hastings of the Little Rock police department. The truck was carrying the entrails from a rendering plant to a facility where dog food is manufactured when the driver made an abrupt stop. Then the guts spilled.



Austin American-Statesman

Ballet Austin will celebrate the 100th anniversary of J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" with performances at the University of Texas' Bass Concert hall this week. The dancers will be airborne with the help of Flying by Foy, a company specializing in mechanical effects such as theatrical flight. Left, Gina Patterson as Wendy and Anthony Casati as Peter Pan achieve liftoff during a rehearsal Monday.

Translator Heros Proud of Role

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symbiotic relationship.

"It is a blessing for both sides," he said. "Without us they can't communicate with the community. And without the United States we can't find justice in Iraq."

Mahir said he enjoys being a translator because he can participate first hand in rebuilding Iraq. An engineer by trade, he supervised school and hospital reconstructions.

"We fixed 90 percent of (Baghdad University)," he said. "We fixed the streets and hospitals. We are working on 10 to 20 schools in Baghdad. I get to help the American people to fix my country and help my people. I am very proud that I had the chance to do this."

Changes in infrastructure are going hand in hand with changes in liberties. The freedoms the Iraqi people were once denied are now available, Mahir said.

"Before it was like we lived in jail," he said. "We could not walk down streets



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Capt. William R. Prayner, Jr., commander of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, converses with an Iraqi through a translator.

because they had Saddam's homes and palaces there. Now we have good lives with freedom. The one thing we are missing is safety. If we had safety, this would be paradise."

Mahir said if the war never happened, he would have left Iraq at all costs.

"I would lose everything, but I would leave," he said. "I can't live like how my father did."

All three translators said their experience working with American Soldiers has been positive.

"They bring real democracy," Zaki said. "U.S. Soldiers are like a second family to me. They are very kind, very helpful. Hopefully America will become a second home."

Despite the dangers of the job, none of the translators said they intend on quitting. They all said they are concerned for the future of their children, but do not fear their own death.

"Death is everywhere," Zaki said. "It is the final destination for everyone. I am not afraid of death."

Cards Slug it Out in Game 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Make no mistake about it - this is a slugger's series.

Albert Pujols homered early, Larry Walker delivered three key hits and the St. Louis Cardinals withstood four Houston shots to outlast the Astros 10-7 Wednesday night in Game 1 of the NL championship series.

"We got some huge hits that fell in for us," Walker said. "A string of hits is just as good as hitting the ball out of the ballpark."

Slumping Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds also contributed, and winning pitcher Woody Williams even helped out with a big double for the league's top-hitting team.

Together, that was enough - barely - to withstand homers by Carlos

Beltran, Lance Berkman, Jeff Kent and Mike Lamb.

And it was a significant victory: The last 11 teams to win the opener of the NLCS have gone on to the World Series.

No one thought pitchers would rule in this series, and it was an accurate prediction. Edmonds' three-run double with two outs capped a six-run sixth inning that broke the game open and put St. Louis ahead 10-4.

"They can hurt you in a hurry and they did tonight," Berkman said. "When a team gets on a roll like they did, it's like a tidal wave."

In an October when the ball is flying, the Cardinals and Astros took turns whacking shots all over Busch Stadium, with Walker finishing a home



AP
St. Louis Cardinals' Jim Edmonds (15), Larry Walker, left center and Tony Womack, right center, accept congratulations from the rest of the team after their win in game one of the NCLS.

run shy of becoming the first player in postseason history to hit for the cycle.

Given a chance to do it, Walker struck out in his final at-bat.

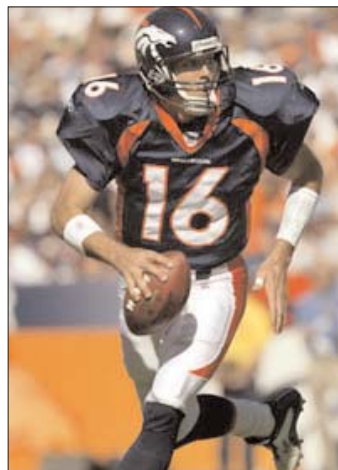
Plummer Finds Way to Honor Friend

DENVER (AP) - Pat Tillman always stood up for what he believed. His friend Jake Plummer wanted to as well, but officials from the NFL weren't so keen on letting him.

Plummer relented Wednesday, agreeing to adhere to the league's dress code and remove a sticker from his helmet that honored Tillman, who was killed in the war in Afghanistan after quitting football to join the Army.

"When it comes to honoring Pat, he's bigger than a sticker on my helmet," Plummer said. "I don't like the fact I can't, but I understand what the league wants to accomplish with its rules and regulations."

To soften the blow, the NFL said it would not fine Plummer for wearing the



Getty Images

Broncos' Quarterback, Jake Plummer, removed a sticker from his helmet that honored his friend Pat Tillman.

sticker last Sunday in violation of league rules. Also, the league agreed to let Plummer tape public-service announcements honoring

Tillman and play them in stadiums nationwide on the weekend after Veteran's Day.

Gilmore said in a statement.

"We, too, want to continue to keep Pat Tillman's legacy alive, but ... we have rules regarding personal messages on uniforms that we needed to apply consistently," the NFL said in a statement.

Tillman, a former teammate of Plummer's at Arizona State and with the Arizona Cardinals, quit the league in 2002 to join the Army Rangers. He died in combat in April.

To honor the former safety, all NFL players wore the No. 40 decal on their helmets during the second week of the season. The Cardinals will wear the decal all season.

In Brief

Reeve Film to Hit Theaters in 2006

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - A computer-animated film that Christopher Reeve



had been directing at the time of his death will remain in production, company officials said. "Yankee Irving," the working title of the movie, follows the story of a boy who overcomes personal obstacles to realize his large dreams. Reeve, 52, died Sunday of complications from an infection caused by a bed sore.

Yanks Win 3-1 in Pitching Battle

NEW YORK (AP) - Pedro Martinez has a new "daddy." His name is Jon Lieber. While the raucous crowd at Yankee Stadium taunted Martinez with booming chants of "Who's Your Daddy?" Lieber shut down the highest-scoring offense in the major leagues. A No. 5 starter pitching against a three-time Cy Young Award winner, Lieber took a shutout into the eighth inning. John Olerud backed him with a two-run homer in the sixth off the tiring Martinez, and the Yankees beat the Red Sox 3-1 Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in their AL championship series rematch. "I knew coming into this game what Pedro has done in the past in situations like this, so there was no room for error," Lieber said.